



FIRE MOBILIZATION NEWS FROM THE STATE OF WASHINGTON

State Emergency Operations Center
Camp Murray, Washington



For immediate release

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Update: Progress Being Made in Beebe Bridge Fire

CAMP MURRAY – Firefighters have the Beebe Bridge Fire approximately 50% contained as of this morning and are expecting to make significant progress today. The Type II team transitioned into taking over command of the fire early yesterday evening. The fire is burning east of the Columbia River in McNeil Canyon, four miles east of Chelan in Douglas County.

Fire activity did not grow overnight, and firefighters believe approximately 4,205 acres have burned after a reassessment of the fire. Winds of 20 miles per hour are expected today with gusts of 30 miles per hour. Approximately 200 structures are still threatened, and the Level II voluntary evacuation remains in effect. The Red Cross shelter remains open at the Chelan High School.

FEMA approved a request for a Fire Management Assistance Grant yesterday, due to a change in the scope of the fire. FEMA will reimburse back to the State 75% of the costs associated with the fire. Federal fire management assistance is made available by FEMA to manage, mitigate and control fires that threaten to cause a major disaster. The assistance covers eligible state firefighting costs, including expenses for field camps; equipment use, repair and replacement; tools, materials and supplies; and mobilization and demobilization activities.

Approximately 350 firefighters, 63 engines/water tenders, 7 20-person hand crews, 4 helicopters, and 3 dozers continue to actively fight the fire.

Creating a defensible space around your home is a must for residents living in a potential wild land fire area. The following are the 10 steps to defensible space:

- Thin tree and brush cover.
- Dispose of slash and debris left from thinning.
- Remove dead limbs, leaves and other litter.
- Stack firewood away from home.
- Maintain irrigated green belt around the home.
- Mow dry grasses and weeds.
- Prune branches to 10 feet above the ground.
- Trim branches.
- Clean roof and gutters.
- Reduce density of surrounding forest.

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